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Message Text

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22
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /059 W
---------- 005323
R 160603Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
FBIS OKINAWA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9645

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJECT: RED FLAG ARTICLE RESISTS CONTINUED PRESSURES TO CALL A HALT TO ANTI-TENG MOVEMENT

REF: HONG KONG 9604

1. REFLECTING RECENT PRESSURES TO CUT SHORT THE ANTI-TENG CRITICISM CAMPAIGN, CHING YEN'S AUGUST RED FLAG ARTICLE SEEKS TO COOPT THE CONCEPT OF BUILDING NATIONAL UNITY FOR THE CAMPAIGN'S PROMOTERS. TAKING UP A TRADITIONAL MODERATE STANCE WHICH SEEKS TO PULL EVERYONE TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF CAMPAIGN DISRUPTIONS, THIS ARTICLE ARGUES THAT THE ONLY REAL WAY TO BUILD UNITY IS TO COMPLETE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TENG AND THE CAPITALIST ROADERS. ARGUING THAT THERE "IS NO CHOICE" BUT TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE, THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT "FEAR" OF THE CAMPAIGN AFFECTING UNITY IS "GROUNDLESS."

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2. ATTEMPTING TO TAKE THE MANTLE OF UNITY FOR THEIR OWN,

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THE CAMPAIGN'S PROMOTERS ARGUE THAT A CONCILIATORY LINE SHOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED ERRORS--MAO'S "CURE THE ILLNESS" FORMULA IS USED--AND ERRANT CADRES ARE URGED TO ADOPT "CORRECT ATTITUDES." PUTTING THE CHAIRMAN'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE ABOVE ALL ELSE,THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE CAPITALIST ROADERS ARE THE ONES WHO ALWAYS SEEK TO SPLIT THE PARTY AND THE PEOPLE AND TRY TO GET PEOPLE DIVERTED FROM THE MAIN TASKS.

3. CHING YEN'S ARTICLE ALSO REFLECTS ANOTHER CAMPAIGN PROBLEM, KEEPING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MASSES, AND URGES UNIT ON THE BASIS OF "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM," I.E., OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ANOTHER AUGUST RED FLAT ARTICLE BY PI SHENG IDENTIFYING REVOLUTIONARIES AS POTIMISTS (NCNA AUGUST 15) SIMILARLY EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MASSES AND, IN PART, SEEKS TO COUNTER IMPRESSIONS OF LEADER-SHIP WEAKNESS RESULTING FROM THE CAMPAIGN'S ADMISSIONS THAT THERE ARE CAPITALIST ROADERS IN THE PARTY.

4. PRESSURES TO KEEP THE CAMPAIGN FROM GOING ANY FURTHER WERE EVIDENT IN JULY WHEN THE REGIME BEGAN TO LOOK TO PRO-DUCTION PROBLEMS, AND SOME LEADERSHIP ELEMENTS BEGAN TOVMMM TRY TO USE THESE CONCERNS TO DIVERT THE CAMPAIGN (HK 8716). THESE PRESSURES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASED IN THE WAKE OF THE TANG-SHAN EARTHQUAKE AND THE DIVERSION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES TO REBUILD THE AFFECTED AREA (HK 9521). THE RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL SEEKING TO USE THE CAMPAIGN TO BOOST RECOVERY (HK 9524) AND MEDIA REFERENCES TO SABOTAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN FURTHER INDICATE THE PRESSURES WHICH ARE DIRECTED AGAINST ITS CONTINUATION. WITH THE PRESUMPTION THAT THE MILITARY COMMISSION IS OR HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN SESSION (REFTEL) AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT OTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN OCCUR-ING SIMULTANEOUSLY TO TAKE CARE OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ISSUES AND OTHER MATTERS OUTSTANDING SINCE THE FALL OF TENG, THE CAMPAIGN'S PROMOTERS WILL BE FURTHER SQUEEZED TO ABORT THEIR GAME PLAN.
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